LAFAYETTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 133
Lafayette, Calif. 94549

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"IRONS IN THE FIRE" THEME OF BRANDING IRON COLLECTION AT LANDMARKS ROOM

Branding irons rusted and weathered with years of use on Western cattle ranches highlight the Lafayette Historical Society's new display at the LandMarks Room, Lafayette Federal Savings and Loan Association, 3614 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

The collection represents 25 years of work and enthusiasm by owner Donn Court and is entitled "Irons in the Fire". The Orinda businessman's display includes the original tools used to brand cattle on such farflung famed spreads as the giant Parker Ranch in Hawaii and the ZX brand from the Peasley, Oregon enterprise--the outfit that preceded the present Kern County Land and Cattle Company.

On exhibit with Court's irons are a number of Contra Costa cattle implements loaned by the Moraga Historical Society, local developer Russell Bruzzone and Mrs. Sumner Hodges. Bruzzone's contribution to the uniquely mounted and displayed series of windows is the old Moraga Ranch iron "JU". The name was chosen by former ranch foreman. the late Bill Barnes, and the letters refer to the month of July.

Scenes of ranch life on the old Moraga spread, a photo of a 1921 cattle drive through the old tunnel to the Emeryville slaughter house, and photos pf the Hodges ranch--near the site where Acalanes High School now stands--are also included.

Other contributers include Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Fanning of Dutch Flat, Mr. and Mrs. Cy Tolman, Ten Sleep, Wyoming--so named because it was ten nights or sleeps along the cattle trail.

Display chairman, Mrs. Joan Merryman, was assisted in preparing and arranging the exhibit by Dan Boyle, Jr., Mrs. Toni Finger, and Wayne Merryman. Publicity was written by Sandy Kimball. "Irons in the Fire" will remain in the LandMarks Room until April 10.

SUCCESSFUL POTLUCK DINNER MARKS SECOND ANNIVERSARY

More than 100 persons crowded into the Veterans Memorial Building for our recent Second Annual Potluck Dinner. The Historical Society wishes to thank those who worked so hard on this successful anniversary event. Special thanks to our general chairman, Mrs. Esther Marchant, who unfortunately was too ill to attend. Our thanks to the telephone committee and to those who served in the kitchen; to those who decorated the dining tables and to those who selected our fine collection of historical photographs; to all those who planned the excellent program, worked the projector and made possible our viewing of the slide show, "Contra Costa Vita-scope"; to the members of the Veterans organization who helped before and during the social hour; and to all members who provided such a wide assortment of delicious food. The Historical Society thanks you, EVERY ONE!

WE INVITE YOUR MEMBERSHIP

For the first time attractive membership cards have been printed and will be mailed to all members in good standing. The photo on the membership card is of the Benjamin Shreve store built in 1864. The store still stands. remodelled, on Plaza Way across from Plaza Park and was made a State Point of Historical Interest in 1970.

Upon receipt of your dues, your membership card will be mailed to you with the next news bulletin. Dues paid by new members during the last quarter of 1972 will be valid through the year of 1973. Enclosed is a self-addressed envelope for your convenience.

"We urge you to encourage any interested friends or neighbors to join during our membership drive. Please note our new P.O. Box 133, or call 283-8792 for information," said Mrs. Olive Wilhelm, membership chairman.

----------Please clip and enclose your check----------

Membership - Lafayette Historical Society - 1973

Name _____

Address _____

$5.00 Individual or family _____

$2.50 Student _____

$10.00 Business or professional _____

$100.00 Life membership _____

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Mr. and Mrs. Karl Heuer
Mr. and Mrs. George Sciacquea

BOARD OF DIRECTORS PLEDGE TO "Save Mt. Diablo" Fund

Board members voted to contribute $25.00 to the "Save Mt. Diablo" fund drive sponsored by the N.C. Chapter of the Nature Conservancy. Individual contributions from members of $1.00 or more towards the fund drive will be forwarded by the Historical Society. Please make checks payable to Sierra Club Foundation for "Save Mt. Diablo Fund". Contributions are tax deductible.

ELAM BROWN LANTERN DISPLAYED AT CONTRA COSTA MEETING

The Elam Brown Lantern was displayed at the January meeting of the Contra Costa Historical Society at a special "Show and Tell" program. Mrs. Fern P. Davis, who represented the Lafayette Historical Society, gave the history of the lantern, believed to be the oldest known American artifact in the county. The lantern is on permanent display at the Lafayette Library.

CONTRA COSTA CO. HISTORICAL SOCIETY PUBLICATION

"The Role of the History Buff" was a talk given by Dr. George A. Pettitt in 1971. A gift from the Contra Costa Historical Society, it is enclosed with this month's bulletin.

"SPANISH ROOTS OF CALIFORNIA HISTORY" TO BE MARCH GENERAL MEETING TOPIC

If you've always wanted to tour Spain and to visit the places connected with the founders of California, you won't want to miss our March 13 general meeting. Father William N. Abeloe, well-known author, lecturer and historian will tell us about a recent tour he hosted to Spain and Portugal sponsored by the Oakland Museum Association.

Their first stop on this tour is Mallorca, the home of many Franciscan Missionaries, notable Serra, Palou, and Crespi. In the little town of Petra, they visited the Serra family home (now owned by the City of San Francisco). To illustrate his talk, "Spanish Roots of California History", Father Abeloe will show slides of many historically important cities including Barcelona, Segovia, Madrid, Toledo, Granada, Cordoba and Sevilla. Visited were the birthplaces of many of the men influential in early California history such as Don Gasper de Portola who took possession of California in 1769; Father Lasuen who founded many of the California missions; Father Cruzado who was the architect of the San Gabriel Mission; Viceroy Bucareli who brought about the opening of the land route to California by Anza making possible the founding of San Francisco.

Father Abeloe was onr of the founding directors of the Lafayette Historical Society, and upon his resignation was accorded the Society's first honorary life membership. He is now pastor of the Church of St. John the Baptist in El Cerrito. Father Abeloe revised the third edition of Historic Spots in California published in 1966 by the Stanford University Press, considered the definitive work on the subject. He is an active member of the prestigious National Trust for Historic Preservation, and he is Regional Vice-President (East Bay) of the California Heritage Council, a statewide organization devoted to the preservation of historic buildings.

The March 13 meeting will be at the Lafayette School Auditorium, Moraga Road and School Streets, Lafayette, at 8:00 p.m. This is a joint meeting with the Lafayette, Moraga, and Orinda Historical Societies.

Spring Calendar of Events

Feb. 16-17----------15th Annual Symposium of the Historiaal Societies of Southern California, Pasadena. For information call 283-3303.

March 13----------General Meeting. Father William N. Abeloe, speaker.

March 31, April 1---Conference of California Historical Societies, Columbia. For information call 283-3303.

May----------House and Landmark Tour. Date to be announced. Volunteers are needed. Please call 283-0706 if you would like to help.

May----------Trees to be plaqued. Date to be announced
Bell Tower to be plaqued. Date to be announced.